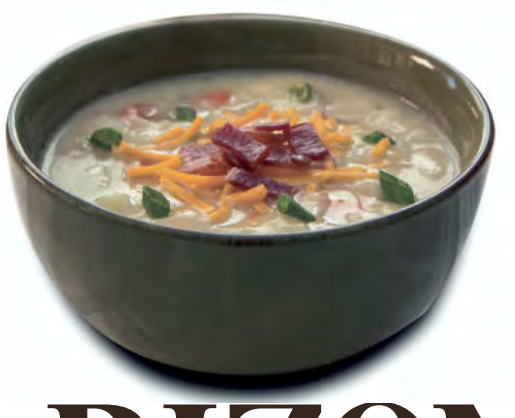

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Cards' QB Palmer says he's retiring

Another big domino in the Arizona Cardinals' successful run over recent years falls with the announcement by Carson Palmer on Tuesday that he will retire. The call by the 38-year-old quarterback comes just a day after coach Bruce Arians announced he was walking away from the game. Both had been with the Cardinals the past five seasons. The Cardinals were 38-21-1 with Palmer as the starter, and made it to the NFC Championship Game in the 2015 season. Palmer played 15 years in the NFL. **1C**

Arizona Cardinals QB Carson Palmer, shown in October against Tampa Bay, has thrown his last pass. He is retiring after 15 years in the NFL. ROB SCHUMACHER/AZCENTRAL SPORTS

THE LEGACY OF HEAT

Volunteers Bryan Urraca and Brianna Bently finish applying mulch last month to a newly planted tree in Dallas' South Oak Cliff neighborhood. Despite its leafy name, the neighborhood boasts few shade trees. PATRICK BREEN/THE REPUBLIC

2017 was warmest year on record in Phoenix

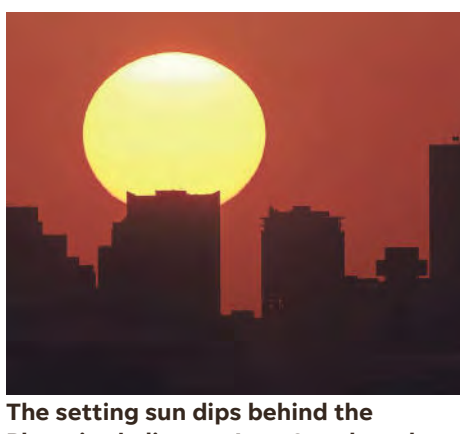
Weldon B. Johnson Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Considering there were 96-degree days in March, near all-time highs in June and record heat on Thanksgiving, is it really a surprise that 2017 was the all-time record warmest year for Phoenix?

The average temperature (combining the average high and low and dividing by two) for the year was 77.3 degrees, according to the National Weather Service. That's two-tenths of a degree higher than the previous record set in 2014. It's more than 2 degrees above the normal of 75.1.

If the Climate Prediction Center's seasonal outlook proves to be accurate, 2018 could turn out to be a scorcher as

See WEATHER, Page 10A



The setting sun dips behind the Phoenix skyline on June 21, when the high temperature hit 117 degrees. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

More online: Read past environmental stories at **investigations.azcentral.com**.

January weather chart: Track the month's highs and lows. Download the chart at **weather.azcentral.com**.

In Dallas as in Arizona, residents turn to trees

Brandon Loomis Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

DALLAS — Few neighborhoods in America need trees more than South Oak Cliff, a sun-blasted shade desert in this rapidly warming Texas city.

Like much of Phoenix, the south side Dallas district lacks sufficient shade for comfort during summer and safety during heat waves, when temperatures can climb as much as 11 degrees higher than parts of the city where the shade cover is greater.

Despite South Oak Cliff's leafy name, big shade trees are relatively scarce along its streets. In this part of Dallas, the canopy, a measure of areas covered by trees, is one-third as dense as it is in the city overall, and neighbors say the

See TREES, Page 8A

Well-loved depot near Canyon shuttered

Williams now bypassed in favor of Flagstaff stop

Felicia Fonseca
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILLIAMS — The train rolled in well past sunset as a couple of shuttle drivers waited at a dimly lit platform for passengers headed to the Grand Canyon.

After loading the shuttles, the last driver turned off the lights, closing down the Williams Junction station as the Amtrak train faded into the distance.

The routine had become one of passengers' most treasured experiences in the American West, but it ended with the new year. The company that runs the shuttle service between the train stop and the small city of Williams 3 miles away said it was becoming too much of a burden, effectively closing the station.

"I'm very sad to see it close because the whole history of this area — Williams and the Grand Canyon — is based on the trains bringing people out this way," said Jim Sigmon, a Prescott resident who traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, with his wife over the holidays via Williams Junction.

Amtrak's twice-daily trains between Los Angeles and Chicago have stopped at the station since at least 1999, when a company that runs a nearby hotel built it to serve passengers on its own rail line to the Grand Canyon.

Xanterra Parks and Resorts bought the Grand Canyon Railway in 2007 and decided last year to stop the free shuttle service at Williams Junction. As of Monday, passengers are picked up and dropped off in Flagstaff, about 30 miles away.

Railway spokesman Bruce Brossman said the train schedules were inconsistent, and passengers who arrived late at night or before dawn lingered in the ho-

See STATION, Page 10A

UA FIRES RODRIGUEZ SPORTS, 1C

University of Arizona football coach Rich Rodriguez, shown Nov. 25 during the Territorial Cup against ASU, was fired Tuesday after six seasons as coach of the Wildcats. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

USA TODAY

Protests, war of words escalate concerning Iran

After six days of protests against Iran's cleric-led government, the verbal jousting intensifies with comments by President Donald Trump, U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, and Iran's supreme leader. **1B**

Homeless camp illegal

A traffic median in Roosevelt Row that has become an encampment for homeless people recently was declared illegal Tuesday by Phoenix officials. **3A**

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